

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An air cleaner comprising:

a case;

a cover detachably mounted to the case;

a filter element accommodated in the case, said filter element having a cylindrical shape having a central axis therealong; and

a pair of support members ~~provided for~~ mounted to the cover,

wherein said [[the]] pair of support members can be engaged with both end portions of the filter element in an axial direction thereof so as to hold the filter element between the support members,

[[and]] wherein removing said cover from the case removes the filter element from the case together with the cover and disengaging said filter element from the support members removes the filter element from the cover, and

wherein one of said paired support members is mounted to the cover to be rotatable by a hinge device, and said paired support members can be engaged with said filter element by

rotating said one of the paired support members in one direction and disengaged therefrom by rotating the one support member in another direction.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) An air cleaner according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein said one of the paired support members comprises a disc plate section, a rotatable shaft attached to the disc plate section and a connection pin connected to the rotatable shaft, and said cover is provided with a pin receiver to receive said connection pin, said connection pin and said pin receiver constituting the hinge device about which said one of support members is rotated.

4. (original) An air cleaner according to claim 3, wherein said pin receiver is formed with a groove into which said connection pin is fitted when rotated.

5. (currently amended) An air cleaner according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein said cover is provided with a support member holding rib for holding said one of the paired support members at a predetermined angle with respect to the case to hold the filter element between the paired support members.

6. (currently amended) An air cleaner for an engine of a vehicle comprising:

a case;

a cover detachably mounted to the case, said cover having an air outlet through which air flows out;

a filter element accommodated in the case, said filter element having a cylindrical shape having a central axis therealong, said central axis of the filter element being directed in a direction other than a vertical direction with respect to a body of the vehicle to which the engine is mounted; and

a pair of support members ~~provided for~~ mounted to the cover,

wherein said [[the]] pair of support members can be engaged with both end portions of the filter element in an axial direction thereof so as to hold the filter element between the support members to be coaxial with an axis of said air outlet,

[[and]] wherein removing said cover from the case removes the filter element from the case and disengaging said filter element from the support members removes the filter element from the cover,

wherein a flange portion of said case, to which said cover is mounted, is arranged in a substantially horizontal plane, and

wherein said cover is removable in a substantially vertical direction from the body of the vehicle.

7. (new) An air cleaner comprising:

a case;

a cover detachably mounted to the case;

a filter element accommodated in the case, said filter element having a cylindrical shape having a central opening and being detachably mounted to the cover; and

a pair of support members integral with the cover, one of said pair of support members comprising a tubular section and another one of said pair of support members comprising a circular disc rotatably mounted to the cover,

said filter element being between the support members, such that one end portion of the filter element is between a side wall of the cover and the tubular section and the circular disc is within the central opening at another opposing end portion of the filter element.